

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /125 W

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R 151630 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3606

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0519

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 509

1. MORNING MAY 11 PRIOR TO THE CONVERSATION WITH ICELANDIC AMB TO US KROYER REPORTED IN REFTEL, KROYER CALLED ON ME TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER FONMIN' S ACTION TO INVOKE ARTICLE VII. AT HIS REQUEST I BRIEFED HIM ON ALL MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FONMIN AND LET HIM READ THE SECRET PAPER " RATIONALE FOR THE SECURITY OF ICELAND". KROYER SAID HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN LATER THAT MORNING IN ORDER TO TRY TO TALK HIM OUT OF INVOKING ART VII FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GREAT HARM THIS ACTION WOULD DO TO THE PRESIDENT' S EFFORTS TO COMBAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL SENTIMENT IN THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. ALSO HE WANTED TO POINT OUT TO THE FONMIN THAT FROM A PURELY ICELANDIC POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW, INVOKING ART VII COULD WELL BACKFIRE ON HIM BECAUSE IT WOULD IMMEDIATELY PUT THE FONMIN AND OTHER PRO- IDF ELEMENTS ON THE DEFENSIVE. THE ATTACK THAT WOULD COME FROM THE COMMUNISTS WOULD BE RELENTLESS, AND FONMIN MIGHT FIND HIMSELF WORSE OFF IN THE SECRET

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LONG RUN. I THANKED HIM FOR HIS INTEREST AND WISHED HIM WELL. REFTEL WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE KROYER WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL WITH FONMIN.

2. THAT EVENING AT A DINNER THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND GAVE FOR UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM, THE FONMIN APPROACHED ME AND ASKED THAT I SHOW HIM SOME CONSIDERATION FOR HIS POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH FORCE HIM TO INVOKE ART V11. I TOLD HIM IT WAS NOT FOR ME TO INTERJECT MYSELF IN ICELANDIC DOMESTIC POLITICS. MY INTEREST WAS TO POINT OUT TO HIM HOW MUCH DAMAGE INVOKING ART VII WOULD BE DOING TO NATO, TO NATO'S EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE AND TO THE UNFORTUNATE IMPLICATION HIS ACTION WOULD HAVE IN THE EYES OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. HE SEEMED GENUINELY TROUBLED, BUT SAID THE DECISION TO INVOKE ART VII WAS IRREVERSIBLE. HE INVITED ME TO MEET WITH HIM EARLY JUNE FOR AN HOUR OR TWO IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE WHOLE SITUATION AND TO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY, IF I SO WISHED, TO SUGGEST TO HIM A PUBLIC STATEMENT HE COULD ISSUE AT THE TIME HE INVOKES ART VII WHICH WOULD LESSEN THE ADVERSE IMPACT IN THE UNITED STATES AND ON MBFR. I SAID I WOULD WELCOME SUCH A MEETING, BUT WOULD HOPE THAT HE WOULD GIVE ME ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISSUADE HIM FROM INVOKING ART VII.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE FONMIN SAID THE ACTION WAS IRREVERSIBLE, I DEDUCED FROM THE TONE OF THE CONVERSATION, A VERY, VERY SLIGHT CHANCE THE DOOR MAY STILL BE AJAR TO MAKE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND, OR AT LEAST MAKE HIM HESITATE A LITTLE LONGER BEFORE INVOKING ART VII. THE CHANCE, ADMITTEDLY, IS SLIM, BUT STILL WORTH UNDERTAKING.
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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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